

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/919,930

Examiner

Mary Cheung

Applicant(s)

KANAI ET AL.

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 3/14/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Juan Marquez on June 13, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

In line 5 of claim 1, the word --electronically-- has been inserted before the word "establishing";

In line 15 of claim 1, the word "contact" has been changed to read --contract--;

In line 18 of claim 1, the word --electronically-- has been inserted before the word "reconfiguring";

In line 19 of claim 1, the word "contact" has been changed to read --contract--;

In line 20 of claim 1, the phrase "(i.e., persons, corporations)" has been deleted;

In line 21-23 of claim 1, the phrase *("ideal use of storages in correspondence with the billing charge to the users by proposing the most optimum contract options to the users (Abstract)"; "terminal used by the storage user" in Fig. 3)* has been deleted.

In line 5 of claim 2, the word --electronically-- has been inserted before the word "making";

In line 19 of claim 2, the word --electronically-- has been inserted before the word "reconfiguring";

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In line 5 of claim 3, the word --electronically-- has been inserted before the word "establishing";

In line 19 of claim 3, the word "contact" has been changed to read --contract--;

In line 23 of claim 3, the word "contact" has been changed to read --contract--;

In line 24 of claim 3, the word --electronically-- has been inserted before the word "re-configuring";

In line 25 of claim 3, the word "contact" has been changed to read --contract--.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1-7 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of Wollrath (U. S. Patent 6,263,350) teaches leasing storage comprising a client request access to storage locations for a period of time from a server, the server invokes a lease algorithm that determines a lease period during which time the client may access the storage locations, and the server supports concurrent leases, exact leases, and leases for various types of access. Another close prior art of Mummert (U. S. Patent 6,427,152) teaches periodically tracking and storing the history of each object stored in the storage, and the life expectancy for each storage is calculated by utilizing the object histories for all objects currently stored in that storage.

In regarding to independent claims 1-3, Wollrath and Mummert taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a service method of rental storage comprising the contract conditions including a contracted billing method, a contracted billing period, a contract storage data amount, a

notification threshold storage data amount for triggering contracted notification to each of said rental storage users prior to reaching the storage data amount, and an indication of whether an estimation option is available in the contract for changing the conditions of the contract based upon the rental storage estimation, and reconfiguring the conditions of the contract as changed by each of the rental storage uses if the estimation option is available in the contract.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The article titled "Facilities Planning, Evaluation and Acquisition for Smaller Corporations. (corporate space needs)" by Thomas (Inc., v6, p111(11), September 1984, ISSN: 0162-8968).


Inquire

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Cheung whose telephone number is 571-272-6705. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (10:00-7:30) Second Friday Off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mary Cheung 
Primary Examiner
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June 13, 2005